GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:21
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
Promotion of Spiritual Heritage of Uttarakhand
Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to bring Char Dham of Uttarakhand on to the World map is under consideration of the Government;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the special steps taken by the Government to bring the religions, spiritual, cultural heritage of the country before the world community;
(d) whether the Government takes the help of private, self-help organizations to promote the tourism; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): For development the infrastructure facilities in Tourism Sector in the Country Ministry of Tourism has launched two schemes in 2014-15 viz. Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASAD - Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive. Under these Schemes, central financial assistance is provided for last mile connectivity and approach road leading to tourist sites/destinations including pilgrimage centres. Ministry of Tourism, under the PRASAD Scheme has approved project for development of infrastructure facilities at Kedarnath with an estimated cost of Rs.34.78 crore in the year of 2015-16. An amount of Rs.17.39 crore has been release for the project. As far as Swadesh Darshan Scheme no proposal from the State Government of Uttarakhand has been received in the Ministry of Tourism to cover these Char Dham under the Spiritual Circuit.

In addition, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway has undertaken projects for improvement of National Highway connectivity to Chardham i.e, Yamnotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath and a part of route of Kailash Mansarover Yatra to provide all weather connectivity, safe and comfortable journey. The proposed improvement includes provisions like widening of existing narrow and geometrically deficient National Highways to 2 lane with paved shoulders standards, protection of land slide hazard zones, construction of bypasses, major bridges (25 nos), tunnels (2 nos), viaducts (3 nos) etc.

(d): No, Madam.

(e): Does not arise.

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